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C/O Freedom- Unlimited 2201 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412-758-7898

**January 12, 2019** 

Mr. Dave Leach, President & CEO Greyhound Lines, Inc. Greyhound Corporate Office Patriot Tower, 350 North St. Paul Street Dallas, TX 75201

Dear Mr. Leach:

At our Thursday, January 10, 2019 meeting of the Black Political Empowerment Project Planning Council we voted unanimously to support our very active member of our B-PEP Leadership Team, Mr. William Anderson, in his efforts to respond to the extremely inappropriate and possibly racist behavior of one of your Greyhound bus drivers, who we believe to be Mr. Wayne Filt. Attached is the detailed description of the January 5, 2019 incident which we recommend that your staff review carefully. We are very concerned about the decisions, assumptions, words, and actions of your driver. In our opinion your driver jumped to some very troubling conclusions, which we believe may very well be based in racial bias. His actions were so inappropriate that we think his termination might be in order, as well as a review of your racial and cultural sensitivity training for all staff members.

One of the initiatives of the Black Political Empowerment Project, the Corporate Equity & Inclusion Roundtable (CEIR), in recent months hosted "Implicit Bias Training" for staff members of companies, corporations, universities, colleges and non-profits. With the behavior of the driver in question it appears that such an initiative would be very appropriate for *all* of your staff members. As you are aware a significant percentage of your clientele across the nation consists of African Americans, Hispanics and other

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minorities. It is vital that your staff know how to appropriately interact with people of all races, nationalities, ethnicities, and orientation. If Mr. Anderson was not as extraordinarily selfrestrained as he was, this situation could have easily escalated into an even more distasteful one. Fortunately, the Maryland State trooper had the wisdom to realize that Mr. Anderson presented no problem to your driver, nor to the property of the Greyhound Lines, Inc. With the presence of so many incidents across this nation where people in various walks of life have made very derogatory remarks and/or have taken other negative actions, sometimes violent, toward people because of who they are, in terms of race and other factors, it is time for every company and corporation in the United States to say clearly and loudly that such words and actions are unacceptable. The Greyhound Lines, Inc. has a great opportunity, because of the incident of January 5, 2019 with Mr. Anderson, to begin to make that statement of how you respond to this unfortunate situation, or of any similar incidents that have taken place, or may take place in the future.

I hope you and your staff are aware that all people wearing 'hoodies' are not criminals. It is such an assumption that creates these negative attacks on people of color, and young African American males in particular, across this nation. You may want to know that William Anderson is the Executive Director of the PA Democratic State Committee's Black Caucus, the Executive President of the PA Coalition of Young Democrats, a self-made businessman, and a very valuable member of the B-PEP Planning Council.

We look forward to hearing back from the Greyhound Lines, Inc. as to what actions you have taken, and plan to take as a result of this unfortunate incident. We thank you for your anticipated serious consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

## Tim Stevens

Tim Stevens, Chairman & CEO
The Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)
Co-convener, Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence
Facilitator, Corporate Equity & Inclusion Roundtable (CEIR)
412-758-7898

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